

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/881,868

Examiner

Aravind K. Moorthy

Applicant(s)

KRISHNAN ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/15/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 34-53.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the appeal brief filed on 15 June 2006.
2. Claims 34-53 are pending in the application.
3. Claims 34-53 have been allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with George Pappas on 31 August 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

(Amended) Claim 48. A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions, including a power management routine, stored thereon for causing a WCD including a memory and adapted for use with a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) that stores a first unique identifier to:

store in the memory a second unique identifier generated in response to a user performing an initial power up of the WCD, wherein the second unique identifier is compared to the first unique identifier stored in the SIM to permit access to the SIM by the WCD following the initial power up;

power down the SIM in response to the power management routine following the initial power up;

power up the SIM in response to the power management routine following the power down;

automatically transmit the second unique identifier to the SIM without the user re-entering the second unique identifier following the power up in response to the power management routine; and

detecting access to the SIM in response to the SIM matching the second unique identifier automatically transmitted from the WCD to the first unique identifier stored in the SIM.

(Amended) Claim 49. The computer readable storage medium of claim 48, wherein the first and second unique identifiers comprise Integrated Circuit Card Identifiers (ICCIDs).

(Amended) Claim 50. The computer readable storage medium of claim 49, wherein the power management routine continues a power management cycle by maintaining power to the SIM when a match between the first and second identifiers occurs and aborts the power-up process when a match between the first and second identifiers fails.

(Amended) Claim 51. The computer readable storage medium of claim 50, wherein the power management routine terminates power to the SIM in response to a power down command and on the basis of a voting process.

(Amended) Claim 52. The computer readable storage medium of claim 51, wherein terminating power to the SIM comprises terminating power to the SIM when no request is pending for service by the SIM and no software module running on the WCD requests maintenance of power to the SIM.

(Amended) Claim 53. The computer readable storage medium of claim 48, wherein the SIM includes an interface circuit for interfacing with the WCD, the instructions for powering up the SIM including providing power to the SIM.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-16 of the appeal brief, filed 15 June 2006, with respect to the claims have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of the claims has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 34-53 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The current application is directed towards to wireless communication devices (WCDs) and Subscriber Identity Modules (SIMs) used in WCDs. All pending claims concern a security authorization process for gaining access to a SIM in a WCD. The claimed invention is applicable when the WCD implements a power management routine in which the SIM is powered down and then later powered back up to manage power consumption by the SIM. Conventionally, a user is always required to enter a unique identification code, such as a numeric or alphanumeric pass code, in order to gain access to the SIM following power down of the SIM. In other words, conventionally, a user is required to re-enter the unique identification code each time the SIM is powered down and then powered back up. This adds inconvenience to the user if a power management routine periodically powers down the SIM for power management purposes. In this case, the user is conventionally required to re-enter the unique identification code when the SIM is powered down and then powered back up. The current application

recognizes that user convenience is promoted by storing and reusing the unique identification code entered by the user in the security authorization process of the initial power up. In particular, in accordance with the claimed invention, the unique identifier entered by the user at an initial power up is stored, and then automatically used again in a subsequent security authorization following a power down of the SIM by a power management routine. In this manner, the claimed invention spares the user the inconvenient and possibly frequent task of re-entering the unique identification code.

The closest prior art to the current application was Cassidy et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,725 B2). Cassidy et al is directed towards a telephone that comprises a memory for storing first information, such as ID information, and a memory module receiver for removably receiving a memory module for storing second information, such as ID information. The telephone also comprises a microprocessor for detecting a change in contact between the memory module and the memory module receiver since the previous use of the telephone. The microprocessor uses the first information when the memory module and receiving means are not in contact and the second information when memory module and receiving means are in contact whilst there is no change detected. However, when a change is detected, the information to be used by the microprocessor is selected, either automatically or manually.

Cassidy et al discloses a wireless communication device with a Subscriber Identity Module. Cassidy et al discloses a first unique identifier (ID data on the EEPROM of the phone). Cassidy et al discloses a second unique identifier (PIN). However, Cassidy et al does not disclose or suggest any technique in which a unique identifier entered by a user in response to an initial power up is stored and then applied at a subsequent power up, following a power

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down of the SIM as a part of a power management routine of the WCD, without needed the user to re-enter the unique identifier. Cassidy et al describes techniques in which a user must enter an ID code to gain access to a SIM. While Cassidy et al discusses a “power cycle”, it is clear from the description that this “power cycle” in Cassidy et al refers to a power down of the WCD, and not a power management routine in which power is disabled and then re-supplied to the SIM. Moreover, while the “power cycle” in Cassidy et al may remove power from the SIM, it is clearly not referring to a power management routine.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

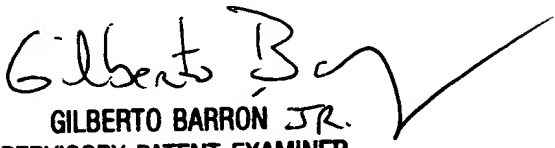
Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aravind K. Moorthy whose telephone number is 571-272-3793. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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September 2, 2006


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